Abstract:

To lower the energy demand for melting in a unit with cooled walls, the invention provides a method for melting inorganic materials, preferably glasses and glass-ceramics, in a melting unit with cooled walls, in which method

- the temperature of at least one region of the melt is selected in such a way as to be in a range from T_{eff} - 20% to T_{eff} + 20%, where
- the temperature T_{eff} is given by the temperature at which the energy consumption per unit weight of the material to be melted is at a minimum, with the throughput having been selected in such a way as to be suitably adapted to the required residence time.